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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by CAPT Alan T. Baker, Chaplain of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, in this Chamber of leaders, who represent in their person, attitude, and vocation each of our 50 States in this great union, we now ask Your blessing, we invoke Your presence, we call upon Your wisdom, and we seek Your will for this great Nation.

Use these Senators throughout this crucial time in our Nation's history. May their work, conducted both in and out of this Chamber, build and not tear down. May their relationships, both in session and thereafter, be ones of collegiality, friendship, and respect. May You be with them as they strive to keep America great.

May You bless the 108th Congress and guide them as they continue to be compass points for our Nation and our world. May the direction they point keep them from temptation and evil, as they offer help and hope to those whose compass is adrift.

We ask this in the name of the one who created us, who sustains us, and who delivers us. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Good morning to the Chair and everyone listening today.

We will have a brief period of morning business for 30 minutes, with the first half under the control of the majority and the second 15 minutes under the control of the minority. We will then resume debate on the intelligence reform bill.

Yesterday, we did invoke cloture on the bill by a vote of 85 to 10; therefore, we will conclude this bill today.

This morning the managers will be here and will have additional cleared amendments to consider prior to a series of stacked votes, which are to begin at 11:30 this morning. In addition to those amendments that can be worked out, Senators may want to come to the Chamber to make closing remarks on the bill.

The order from last night provides for the Senate to begin voting at 11:30 on the pending amendments that will require rollcall votes. It is expected some of the pending amendments will be accepted after some modifications, or possibly withdrawn.

In any event, the voting sequence today will be lengthy. Therefore, Members should be prepared to remain close to the Chamber during that time. I expect to limit the votes to 10 minutes after the first vote in order to expedite passage of the bill.

I remind my colleagues that at the conclusion of the pending intelligence reform bill, we will begin consideration of the resolution relating to the Senate's intelligence restructuring. Our distinguished whips will have a proposal to put forth and we will begin work on that later today. Therefore, additional votes will occur following the completion of the Collins-Lieberman bill.

Lastly, I add that before we finish our business on Friday, which is our goal, we will consider any of the available conference reports, specifically, those of Homeland Security appropria-

tions and FSC/ETI, if those are available.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

COMPLETING THE SENATE'S WORK

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we have come a long way and I congratulate our managers and thank, once again, our assistant Democratic leader for his assistance in moving our effort along. We will complete our work on the bill today. That is very gratifying. I only hope now once we have completed our work we can expedite consideration with the House. We will await their decisions with regard to how they might proceed. Clearly, we are in a position to complete our work in a reasonable time. I hope the same spirit of bipartisanship that was so clearly demonstrated from the very first day with regard to consideration of this legislation can be equally as evident and apparent as we finish our work. It is the only way the bill will get done under these circumstances. Again, I thank the majority leader for setting that tone.

I also say we are in a very good position to do the same with the legislative reorganization. A lot of thought and effort has gone into the working group's recommendations. I am one who believes this resolution is as close to the consensus within the Congress, within the Senate, at least, regarding how we might respond to the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission as we will get. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

We have provided the Senate with an opportunity to address the concerns raised by the 9/11 Commission in a very reasonable, thoughtful, and comprehensive way.

I thank the assistant Republican leader and the assistant Democratic

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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